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**SOUTH BAY
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER**

An innovative alliance of:
South Bay Cities Council of Governments
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
West Basin Municipal Water District
Southern California Edison
The Gas Company®
City of Torrance

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

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May is Water Awareness Month...Are You Doing Your Part?

Lawndale, CA (May 14, 2009). May is water awareness month, and the South Bay Environmental Services Center (SBESC) would like to remind you about ways we can become more water conscious and wise about how we use this precious commodity. The SBESC is the South Bay's local clearinghouse for energy and water efficiency information and training. California's main water sources have been severely impacted by record dry conditions. And we're already using our reserves to supply our everyday water. Our water situation is serious. But here's how you can help.

Conservation Tips

Conserving water doesn't have to mean a major lifestyle change. It can be as simple as taking a shorter shower or turning off the water while you brush your teeth. Water conservation goes hand in hand with saving energy and saving money!

Need some ideas? Here are some simple tips that can help you save water around your home.

Around the Yard

- Use only as much water as your yard needs. If your grass springs back when you step on it, it doesn't need to be watered. Check out www.bewaterwise.com for a watering calculator that can help you use only as much as you need.
- Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads. Don't water the sidewalks or the gutter. Make sure your sprinklers are aimed on the grass.
- Replace a portion of your lawn with California Friendly, drought-tolerant plants. This can save you up to 1,800 gallons per month.

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- Install a "smart" sprinkler controller that determines the correct amount of water based on your plants and the weather conditions.
- Instead of using a hose to wash your car, use a bucket and low-flow spray nozzle.
- You can save up to 150 gallons of water by using a broom to clean sidewalks and driveways instead of a hose.
- Water your yard only before 8 a.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from wind.
- Use mulch. Save hundreds of gallons of water a year by using organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.

Around the House

- A leaky faucet can waste up to 20 gallons per day. Check your faucets, plumbing joints and sprinkler systems to make sure you aren't wasting water.
- Shorten your showers. Even a two-minute reduction can save you up to 700 gallons of water per month.
- Turn off the water when you're not using it while brushing your teeth, washing your face or taking a shower.
- Don't use the toilet as a waste basket.
- Running only full loads in the dishwasher and washing machine can save you up to 800 gallons per month.
- The most water-consuming machine in the house is the washing machine. By replacing it with a high-efficiency model, you can conserve water and energy.
- Upgrade to an Ultra-Low-Flush or High-Efficiency Toilet, which use 1.2-1.6 gallons per flush as compared to older models that use 7 gallons per flush.

Talk to your family and friends about saving water. If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot.

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There are a number of programs available through West Basin Municipal Water District and So Cal WaterSmart, for both indoors and outdoors. Be sure to take advantage of these programs. Contact SBESC for more information about these programs. Call 310-371-7222 or visit our website at www.sbesc.com.

Indoor

Single-Family Residents have access to FREE high-efficiency toilets through West Basin's high-efficiency toilet (HET) give-away program event.

Regional Residential Rebate Program provides rebates for high-efficiency toilets, high-efficiency clothes washers, synthetic turf, 'smart' sprinkler controllers, and rotating sprinkler nozzles, all on a reservation basis. This program is coordinated by **So Cal Water\$mart** in partnership with Metropolitan Water District.

Green Living for Apartments and Condos offers cash rebates, free devices, and free installation for water-saving devices for apartments, condominiums, townhomes, duplexes, triplexes, and mobile homes. Devices offered include water-efficient showerhead, kitchen faucet aerators, compact fluorescent lightbulbs and high-efficiency toilets.

Outdoor

Green Garden Program provides a professional outdoor water survey for residents to assess where you can conserve in their outdoor water use. If you qualify, you can then attend a 'smart' irrigation controller workshop, receive a FREE controller, and reduce runoff outside your home. To participate, call 866-861-0784.

Ocean Friendly Program provides FREE native, ocean-friendly landscaping workshops and available rebates for the 'smart' sprinkler controller.

SBESC is operated by the South Bay Cities Council of Governments whose members are the sixteen cities of the South Bay. SBESC is located at 15901 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 400, Lawndale, CA 90260. The telephone number is 310-371-7222. Visit our website for more information about ways to save water www.sbesc.com. Call and find out about our volunteer program!!

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